

NSC Hit For Delay Of Data

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By George Lardner Jr.

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House intelligence committee chairman Otis G. Pike (D-N.Y.) accused the White House yesterday of trying to conceal high-level documentation of Soviet arms-control violations despite a committee subpoena.

"Either they were not telling the truth or there is a high degree of gamesmanship going on as to who has possession of the documents," Pike said of the National Security Council staff.

Among the documents being withheld, Pike said, is a letter that former Secretary of Defense James R. Schlesinger wrote in the fall of 1974 alleging Soviet violations of the 1972 Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty and demanding an NSC meeting to consider them.

The committee meets today to consider possible enforcement of the subpoena and of two others that have not been obeyed despite a Tuesday morning deadline.

Its sights clearly set on Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, the committee is investigating what its staff has described as substantial information that intelligence reports concerning compliance with the SALT treaty and a follow-up 1974 agreement reached at Vladivostok may have been doctored or distorted.

Staff director A. Searle Field said investigators also are trying to determine the impact of past covert Central Intelligence Agency operations that the President and his White House adviser in charge of national security affairs have insisted upon—in contrast to those proposed by the CIA or the State Department.

Field said the committee wants to find out "which (type) gets the country into trouble."

Here, too, however, the committee was told that the investigation has been stymied by a failure to comply with its subpoenas.

An order directed to Kissinger last week demanded the production by Tuesday of

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House national security affairs adviser.

The State Department uncovered records of eight proposals for covert action, House committee members were told, but these were turned over Monday to the White House.

White House counsel Philip W. Buchen asked the Pike committee in a letter delivered just before yesterday morning's hearing for a week's delay so that President Ford could decide whether to invoke executive privilege.

Pike said he saw no reason to wait. "A member of the White House staff told a member of our staff that there was no way we were going to get that information," the chairman protested.

A motion by the committee's ranking Republican, Rep. Robert N. McClory (Ill.), to grant the White House request was defeated, 9 to 4.

The third subpoena in dispute calls on Scowcroft to submit all Forty Committee records showing approval of covert action projects since Jan. 20, 1965.

Field said the committee got no more than a list of the dates of such decisions and an inadequate two or three-word description saying, for example, "'media project' and that's all."

Pike reported that both Field and chief committee counsel Aaron Donner were told that certain documents relating to compliance with the SALT treaty "were not in the possession of the National Security Council." All that was turned over, Pike said, was a series of SALT monitoring reports compiled quarterly by the U.S. Intelligence Board.

"That is not what we subpoenaed," he declared.

Field said these reports included "absolutely no documents from the verification panel" the NSC group whose sole job it is "to determine whether or not there have been violations of SALT I."

Field said he and Donner confronted Col. Robert C. '(Bud)' McFarland of the NSC staff yesterday afternoon about the Schlesinger letter and were told that "it was destroyed or lost."